

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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Top Secret

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Philippines: President Marcos still shows little inclination to push for funds for the Philippine Vietnam contingent.

the appropriation bill at the bottom of a list of measures to be acted upon by a special congressional session next month. The bill has been languishing in the Senate since House passage in late February.

Marcos could

get the bill passed if he pushes for it by exerting pressure and bestowing political favors.

Operating costs of the contingent could be met from confidential Philippine Defense Department funds, but its continuation without congressional authorization might cause domestic difficulties. Senate approval of the \$9 million appropriation passed by the House would maintain the contingent through the presidential election in the fall of 1969 and rid Marcos of the problem during the campaign.

Marcos has indicated a reluctance to act on the matter until he gets a clearer reading on the prospects for the Paris talks. He appears demoralized by continuing attacks on him resulting from the disclosure of clandestine plans to infiltrate the Malaysian state of Sabah.

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